

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY ASST SECRETARIES BOWDLER AND SHLAUDEMANN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PA, CI

SUBJECT: VISITS OF GENERALS PINOCHET AND ROSSON TO PARAGUAY

1. AS YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE THE HEAD OF THE CHILEAN JUNTA, GENERAL PINOCHET, PLANS A STATE VISIT TO PARAGUAY TO COINCIDE WITH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS. THIS VISIT HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION SINCE LAST MARCH AND ALTHOUGH THE OFFICIAL DATES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED, PRESIDENT STROESSNER TOLD ME HE EXPECTED PINOCHET TO BE HERE MAY 13-15.

2. THIS NOW RAISES THE FOLLOWING PROBLEM. LAST FEBRUARY WHEN I DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT STROESSNER THE ANNUAL VISIT OF USCINCSO GENERAL ROSSON, STROESSNER SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ROSSON PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL MILITARY INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE ON MAY 15; THIS WOULD PERMIT ROSSON TO SEE MOST OF THE MAP MATERIEL GIVEN BY THE US TO PARAGUAY, PARTICULARLY THE ENGINEERING AND ROAD BUILDING EQUIPMENT.

3. BEFORE THE PINOCHET VISIT MATERIALIZED WE HAD SUGGESTED TO GENERAL ROSSON THAT HE ARRIVE IN PARAGUAY ON THE 14TH AND REMAIN UNTIL THE 17TH. ONCE I HEARD OF THE PINOCHET VISIT I ASKED PRESIDENT STROESSNER WHETHER HE WOULD NOT
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PREFER FOR GENERAL ROSSON TO COME AT SOME OTHER TIME TO

PERMIT STROESSNER TO GIVE EACH OF HIS IMPORTANT VISITORS HIS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION. STROESSNER HOWEVER SAID THAT HE SAW NO CONFLICT AND THAT THE OVERLAP WOULD BE ONLY ONE DAY. HE HOPED VERY MUCH THAT GENERAL ROSSON WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE PARADE AND THAT THERE WAS PLENTY OF TIME TO TALK TO HIM AFTER PINOCHET'S DEPARTURE ON THE 15TH. I TOLD PRESIDENT STROESSNER THAT THE FINAL DECISION RESTED WITH GENERAL ROSSON AND THAT I WOULD PASS THIS INFORMATION TO HIM. (FYI - GENERAL ROSSON'S PROGRAM WOULD NOT SUFFER BY PINOCHET'S PRESENCE. HE WOULD ARRIVE LATE ON THE 14TH, ATTEND THE PARADE ON THE 15TH, AND ON THE 16TH HE WOULD FOLLOW A NORMAL SCHEDULE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A SMALL LUNCHEON AT THE RESIDENCE WHICH PRESIDENT STROESSNER WOULD ATTEND AS HE DID LAST YEAR. END FYI)

4. BEFORE RAISING THIS MATTER WITH ROSSON I WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS WHETHER THERE ARE ANY US POLICY OBJECTIONS TO HIS PRESENCE HERE CONCURRENTLY WITH PINOCHET. WE MUST EXPECT THAT AT THE INDEPENDENCE DAY MILITARY PARADE GENERAL ROSSON WILL SHARE THE REVIEWING STAND WITH PINOCHET AND STROESSNER AND THAT PRESS AND PHOTO COVERAGE WILL BE EXTENSIVE. NOW THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER HAS TOLD ME THAT HE HOPES ROSSON'S VISIT WOULD REMAIN ON SCHEDULE WE HAVE SOMETHING OF A PROBLEM. I REALIZE HOWEVER THAT DEPARTMENT'S DECISION MUST BE BASED ON OTHER MUCH MORE IMPORTANT FACTORS AND IF NEED BE I SHALL TELL STROESSNER THAT ROSSON IS UNABLE TO COME DURING MAY. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.
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